

Tribal Leadership in Marine Protection for the North Coast

a Wiyot Tribe Perspective



Wiyot Tribe Environmental Department

Lughurruk, Shou'r Haloulilh
(those who take care of the water and land)
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Wiyot Tribe



Chief Ki-we-lat-tah

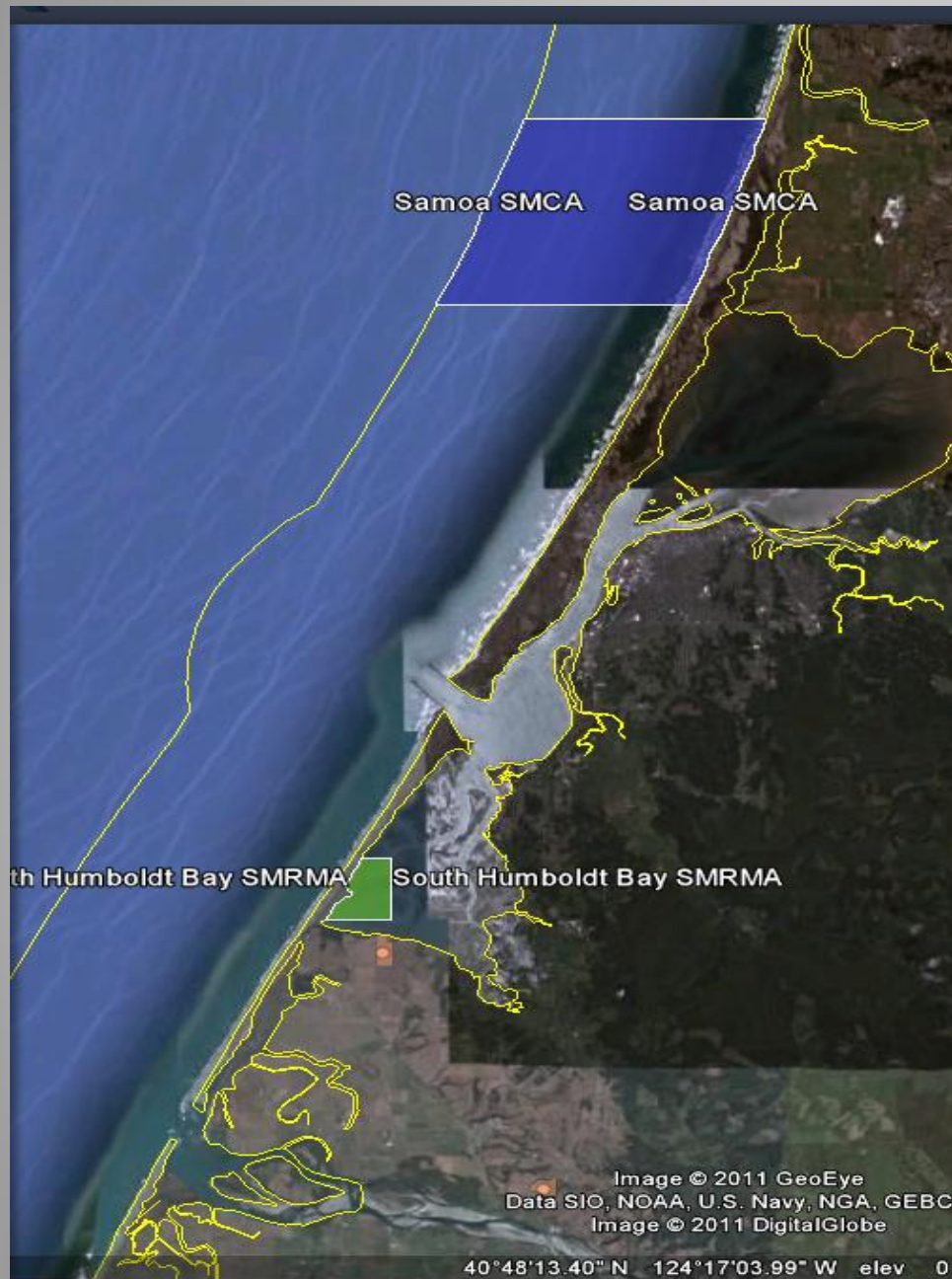
- Federally Recognized
- Pre-contact population ~2000, which dropped to ~100 by 1910
- Unlawfully terminated under the California Rancheria Act of 1958. Successfully sued the Federal Government for re-recognition and regained its status in 1981
- Currently ~630 citizens, about 120 of whom live on Table Bluff Reservation on South Humboldt Bay



Wiyot Ancestral Territory

- Approximately 0.02% of ancestral territory under current Wiyot Tribal ownership.
- This land had to be purchased.

MPAs in Wiyot Ancestral Territory



Samoa SMCA
South Humboldt Bay SMRMA

Ongoing Tradition of Marine Harvesting



Wiyot Tribe Environmental Department



Wiyot Tribe Environmental Department

- Established 1996
- Almost entirely grant-funded through US EPA allocations and various competitive grants
- Mission is to monitor and protect the environmental resources of the Table Bluff Reservation, Wiyot Tribal Landholdings, and the Wiyot Aboriginal Territory



Responsibilities

- Tuluwat (Indian Island) Restoration
- Eel River Restoration
- EPA Clean Water Act Water Monitoring
- Solid Waste Management
- Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency
- Environmental Education
- Community Garden
- Water/Waste Water Infrastructure
- Consultation and Coordination
- Wetlands Management
- “Other Duties As Assigned”



MLPA Involvement



MLPA Involvement

- Participated in North Coast Tribal Coalition and Tri-County Initiative
- Nominated to RSG but not appointed
- Served on *SAT Tribal Workgroup*
- Attended and participated in most RSG, SAT, and BRTF meetings
- Member of collaborative Estuarine Monitoring Group with HSU and Humboldt Harbor District, and Smith River Socio-cultural Baseline Framework

Perspectives



Perspectives

- **Opportunity missed for real Tribal collaboration at the onset**
 - (Because no co-management agreement reached, South Humboldt Bay SMRMA much smaller, Eel River MPA non-existent)
- **Adversarial relationship developed**
- **Non-inclusion of Tribal scientists on SAT**
- **Slowly mutual cooperation (respect?) developed**

Moving Forward



Moving Forward

- Tribes need to be treated as a modern political governments and scientific entities.
- TEK should be used for informing management decisions
- Need to develop real and meaningful co-management agreements

In conclusion ...



**We are soon approaching
the culmination of the
beginning of the next phase
of an ongoing process**

Čawokš (Thank You)